

Minutes
Burton-in-Lonsdale Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm Thursday 23rd July 2020

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; 7th April 2020 to 7th May 2021

Venue: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81173077705?pwd=bDRtZjFkcGZ6dUs3VUVVTZVZlTFc2QT09> or **tiny url:** <https://tinyurl.com/y3p9kbpj>

Present: Councillors Handley, Mason, Sedgwick, Shaw, Tate and Thompson (Chair); County Councillor David Ireton; District Councillor Linda Brockbank; 5 members of the public

In attendance: the Clerk

24/2020 **Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

Cllr. Salrein.

25/2020 **Code of Conduct and Recording of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

To record Councillor's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relating to this Agenda and any changes since the previous disclosure to Craven District Council

Cllr Sedgwick declared an interest: Item 5c Planning Application 2020/21442;

Cllr Tate declared an interest: item 6d Church Clock

26/2020 **Minutes and Matters Arising**

- Minutes: Full Council meetings of 28th May & 11th June, and Recreation Committee meeting of 25th June 2020

Resolved

The Minutes of the above meetings were accepted as an accurate record, with no amendments, to be signed after the meeting.

- Councillor Attendance 7/4/2020 to 7/5/2021 under COVID-19 regulations

The Chairman brought to Councillor's attention the 1972 Local Government Act rules regarding attendance, suggesting those rules may not yet have caught up with technological and latterly, pandemic developments. It was

Resolved

This Council gives arbitrary dispensation to any Councillor who is not able to attend meetings in person due to self-isolating, or due to technical matters regarding hardware devices used for remote meetings until the council meetings can be held in person.

27/2020 **Public Questions** or Statements: there were none

28/2020 **Village Green Area**

Request by Harris Garth owners to re-examine The Parish Council's Caution Against First Registration of open land outside the Harris Garth boundary, (approx 3m x 60m area, gravelled) adjacent to the Village Green

Mr Gillibrand outlined reasons for making the request: he considers the Parish Council's Caution Against First Registration superfluous; he wishes to regularise his use of the gravelled area outside the property by registering the gravelled area as being included with his property, thereby claiming Adverse Possession.

Resolved

The Clerk to consult with YLCA, and to report back to the September meeting.

29/2020 Reports

a) Police

Two minor road traffic accidents (20th and 22nd July) in Burton; other incidents occurred in Bentham.

Cllr Mason brought to the Council's attention that the Police 101 service is not working efficiently, highlighting delays in getting through in the first place, and then a lengthy time for police to visit the incidents. Cllr. Mason also doubted all crimes were recorded, as she was aware of more than has been reported to the Council.

District Councillor Brockbank added a Community Police Officer is based at Bentham Fire Station up to 5pm daily, and undertook to send details to Councillor Mason, and the *Burtonian* editor.

b) North Yorkshire County Councillor

County Councillor Ireton reported recent discussions regarding the creation of a unitary authority for North Yorkshire, dispensing with the two tier system of County and District Councils as part of the country-wide post-COVID recovery programme. There were questions as to manageability of the proposal (i.e. geographic size) to be addressed.

Cllr. Ireton congratulated Pals with Trowels on the successful conclusion of the Orchard project with an information board recently installed at the site.

Cllr. Ireton highlighted his Councillor's Allowance which is used to help local projects; it could be used to help fund new Church Clock winding mechanisms for the benefit of the community.

At this point the Chairman proposed Item 6d be brought forward. Agreed. See item 6d below for the Minute.

i. Traffic speed through village: initial V.A.S. results

Cllr Thompson reported the VAS camera was deployed at four points in the village during four different periods: Bogg Beck and outside former Richard Thornton School, now Thornton Lodge (east and west of village) and either side of the High Street near the Village Shop and the Methodist Chapel.

The results were interesting: on average vehicle speeds were only just above the relevant speed limit of 20/30mph. Each location's data recordings show when vehicles travel through at speeds well above the speed limit. The most dangerous time appears to be between 4 and 5am. This could be explained by the drivers travelling through the village at a higher speed as there is less traffic around at that time of day.

The VAS unit was also left in place with the light switched off (i.e. it would not be activated if a vehicle was travelling past over the speed limit). This appeared to have no effect on the overall speeds recorded. If Councillors have other sites for deploying the VAS, they should let Councillor Thompson know. New posts can be erected by NYCC, at a cost of £500 each.

ii. Grit Bin site review at Low Street/Chapel Lane junction

Following a recent visit by a gas engineer, a resident reported the cracked grit bin at the Low Street/Chapel Lane junction may have leaked salt on the ground, part-corroding a nearby domestic gas supply pipe.

Resolved

Cllr. Mason to consult the residents near the site as to an alternative location; the Clerk to contact NYCC to request a replacement bin to be sited at a different location near the junction, preferably to the north side.

c) Craven District Councillors

District Councillor Brockbank reported all District Council Committees are now meeting by the ZOOM internet platform; the District Council is now operational. A second Planning Committee meeting was held remotely on 20th July, more will follow in due course in order to make good the back log of planning applications.

District Councillor Handley reminded the meeting of the District Councillor's Ward Grant and invited funding applications from village organisations.

Planning Matters

Listed Building Consents to note:

21465 LBC, Donkin House, Leeming Lane: replacement window

21572 LBC Bleaberry House, Duke Street: roof: part-re-slate

Applications

2020 21746 TCA: T1 Lawson cypress - Fell. H1 Leylandii hedge - Remove and replant with native species, Adelaide House, Low St.

2020 21707TCA

T1, T2 & T3 Leylandii - Fell. Fell House , 22 High Street, LA6 3JU

2020/21779/TCA

T1 Yew- Reshape (tip reduction) also interfering with power lines as well as BT Lines. 2 High Street, LA6 3JU

Councillors had no comments to make regarding the above applications.

2020/21442/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of former agricultural barn and land to a wedding venue with single-storey extension, gazebo and associated external work, detached ancillary dwelling with adjoining storage and extension of track and parking area.

High Barn, Lowfields, Burton In Lonsdale, LA6 3LB.

A short discussion highlighted concerns about internal and external noise and light pollution, due to physical location (higher than the village, and within sight of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which has recently applied for Dark Sky status). Measures may be required to mitigate both noise (soundproofing) and light (downward pointing). The nearest neighbours were noted as Lowfields Park, Lowfields Farm (west), Longber Barn, and the Old Vicarage.

Resolved

Clerk to draft response for circulation to Councillors prior to sending comments to the CDC Planning Officer.

d) Clerk; YLCA; Correspondence

The Clerk reported various items of correspondence relating to COVID had been circulated to Councillors and the Recreation Field Committee.

30/2020 Finance Matters

a) Bank balances, including receipts since statement date

The Clerk reported the bank balances as per the below Appendix.

b) Approval of payments of budgeted and non budgeted items

Resolved

To pay the items as per the Appendix.

- c) Insurance: clarification of item values covered
The Clerk circulated prior to this meeting, information from the Council's insurer that the Pavilion's insured value is updated annually.
- d) Church Clock: quote for installation of automatic winding mechanism
Cllr Tate explained the Church clock winding mechanism has two parts, both replaced previously at the same time: one for winding the clock, one for winding the chiming mechanism. Both are made of flammable materials; the broken clock winder is situated behind the chimes winder. To repair the clock winder requires removal of the chimes winder, itself likely to break during the process, due to age. A quote to replace the clock winder has been received. Since then, advice regarding replacement of the chimes winder has been received, suggesting it would be advisable to replace both mechanisms at the same time, to avoid fire risk. The additional work and materials would take the project cost to about £4,000.
Thus far, the Parish Council has pledged up to £2,500 (Parish Councils Act 1957, s2), and just under £700 has been donated by residents, leaving about £800 to find.
County Councillor Ireton repeated his offer, asking that an application to his fund be made by end August. Councillor Handley, in his role of District Councillor, also offered to donate money from his District Councillor's fund.
All Saints' PCC to be informed of further sources of funding.

31/2020 Parish Councillor Reports

- a) Village Hall Committee
Cllr Thompson reported that what is hoped to be the final version of the renovation plans has been discussed by the Hall's committee; an decision is hoped for shortly.
- b) Bentham Common Lands Charity
The Charity has received a request: access to the river along the track adjacent to the community orchard for the purpose of river bank strengthening works upstream from the Orchard. The contractor has been asked to stay on the western side of the triangle away from the orchard. He may need to temporarily remove the safety fence above the side-stream but will make this good afterwards. Cllr Thompson intends to be present when the job starts, and anyone from Pals with Trowels is welcome to assist. Permission has been granted, stipulating the Orchard area itself is to be avoided.
- c) Woodland Trust
The Clerk reported an accident occurred in May, when a walker slipped from the eroded Clifford Gill footpath in to Clifford Gill ravine, incurring whiplash and bruising, and requiring walking along the gill itself in order to return to the footpath, in the next field, as it was not possible to climb out of the ravine elsewhere. Information about the incident was sent to the Woodland Trust, highlighting the danger to walkers; the Woodland Trust has responded to the effect the footpath is permissive, not public, and no significant changes had been noted between visits of January and early June 2020. Although WT claim

there have been no similar incidents in the 24 years it has leased the site, the Clerk is aware of at least one other similar incident.

The WT concluded: “The Woodland Trust strive to ensure our sites are as safe as possible for people to visit and enjoy, however they are dynamic natural environments and it is impossible for us to eliminate every single risk and accidents will still unfortunately occur. We will continue to monitor the site on a regular basis and take any further actions as appropriate.”

c) Local Footpath Volunteers

Cllr. Thompson reported there has been no work done to date during the COVID pandemic period.

Cllr Thompson was very pleased to report the footpath between High Threaber Farm and the A65 has been re-opened, thanks to extensive work by the farm owner, taking away barbed wire and replacing stiles, etc., across several field boundaries.

32/2020 Recreation Committee

a) Grounds and Outdoor Equipment: inspection reports; maintenance including quotes for pavilion hot water system upgrade

The Clerk circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting two quotes for upgrading the hot water system, as required by legislation. A third quote was sought, however, it has proved not possible to find another qualified contractor in the area.

Cllr Thompson recommended taking the lower quote, as it does not include replacing the hot water immersion heaters, which still function, as only installed in 2015, when the pavilion was built.

Resolved

To ask Contractor B what the cost of whole system annual inspections would be.

Cllr. Thompson informed the meeting he would consult with Contractor B regarding tracing the source of the water supply leak, as yet unresolved.

b) Play Area/Outdoor Gym re-opening under COVID-19

COVID notices have been put up in the Play and Outdoor Gym areas and on the main entrance gates. Thus far, users appear to be observing the regulations re distancing and hand sanitising and taking responsibility for their compliance.

c) Pavilion: report re bookings, maintenance, re-opening

The Big Burton Bash, scheduled for 15th August, has been postponed, as COVID regulations do not yet allow such events.

The Clerk advised Councillors of a Pavilion booking for a family birthday celebration on 22nd August.

Resolved

Clerk to contact the resident as to whether they wish to go ahead, if COVID regulations at the time allow such a gathering. As of 23rd July 2020, opening of such facilities as the Pavilions Social Room is not permitted under COVID regulations. The deposit, paid in 2019, is refundable if the booking is cancelled.

33/2020 Maintenance Reports

a) Village Green, including War Memorial

Cllr. Handley reported the bench next to the War Memorial may need

re-varnishing; Cllr Thompson to have a word with Stone Bower resident who has offered to help with Village Green maintenance in the past.

b) Riverside Land

Cllr. Mason reported that some trees require maintenance.

Resolved

Cllr. Mason and the Clerk to inspect the trees to identify those requiring work, and to get the work done as soon as possible (informing Greta Heath residents beforehand).

c) Very Old and Separate Churchyard

Cllr Mason reported the grass has been cut; the area looks very tidy. The annual visual safety inspection is due; Councillors Tate and Thompson to do it in the very near future.

d) Street Lighting: the lights appear to be working satisfactorily.

e) Public benches

See Village Green report above.

Cllr Mason enquired about the ownership of the land recently vacated by the BT telephone box, removed during June. Cllr Thompson reported the land behind the area vacated belongs to Bull Farm; the Bull farm owner has offered to tidy the whole area, including where the telephone box stood.

Resolved

Clerk to write to the owner, thanking him for his offer to include the former telephone box area when he tidies, trusting he will not park his car on the area, nor make a legal claim to what is North Yorkshire Highways property. Cllr. Mason advised caution in the matter.

34/2020 Items to be included by Clerk in press release

There were no items to be reported by the Clerk.

35/2020 Date, time and venue next monthly Parish Council meeting

7.30pm, Thursday 24th September 2020, via the ZOOM platform, venue details to be announced.

The meeting closed at 21.25pm.

Signed

Dated

Appendix

July Finance Statements

Bank Balances, including receipts

Current Account at 15.07.20		300.00
Business Reserve A/c at 15.07.20		<u>44,286.60</u>
		44,586.60
Receipts 15 June - 15 July 2020	<u>2,208.61</u>	
Interest (July)	0.40	
Lonsdale Archers (June field hire)	120.00	
HMRC: VAT refund	2,088.21	
Less: unpresented cheques at July 2020 meeting	<u>-3,660.76</u>	
		<u>40,925.84</u>

Commitments as at 15th July 2020

Contingency Fund (raised to £5000 per resolution 12/11/18)	5,000.00	
Very Old and Separate Churchyard:		
Lych Gate Restoration grant	200.00	
Safety Notice, memorials (400) & 190	552.75	
Clerk's Retirement Gratuity provisionn (3% gross annual salary) at ye 2019 (ye 2018 £2225.70)	2,297.51	
Village Cricket & Sports Days surplus (2017, 18, 19) for future events	346.22	
Riverside Land fund (from lease income)	823.00	
VE Day Commemoration Group re 75th anniversary	400.00	
Church Clock motor purchase	2,500.00	
Rural Watch Scheme	200.00	
Budget remaining as at report date	<u>12,145.38</u>	
		24,464.86
General Reserves at 23.07.20		<u>16,460.98</u>

Payments July 2020

	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
D/D: Octopus Energy monthly payment	2.10	44.04
2444: I R Thompson: ZOOM subscription June, July 2020	4.80	28.78
2445: S Gregory: salary July, expenses		183.94
		<u>256.76</u>